AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0004] as follows:

[0004] Blood processing or apheresis devices currently available for carrying out such blood collection processes include the CS-3000®, Amicus®, Autopheresis-C® and Alyx® blood separation devices marketed by Baxter Healthcare Corporation of Deerfield, Ill. Apheresis devices available from other manufacturers include the Spectra® and Trima® from Gambro BCT of Lakewood, Colo., the ~~AS104~~ AS104™ from Fresenius Hemocare, Inc. of Redmond, Wash. and the ~~V-50~~ V-50™ and other models from Haemonetics Corporation of Braintree, Mass. These devices typically employ a pre-assembled sterile fluid flow circuit that is disposable, and an associated reusable controller or control module that controls processing through the fluid circuit.

Please amend paragraph [00016] as follows:

[00016] The present invention is described herein in the context of the Baxter ~~Aylx®~~ Alyx® Blood Collection and Separation System. The present invention is not, however, limited to a particular system or to a system made by a particular manufacturer. It may be employed in connection with or using other blood collection and separation systems now available or that may yet be developed and used for a variety of blood processing procedures.

Please amend paragraph [00018] as follows:

[00018] As noted earlier, the present invention may also be employed with other apheresis systems, such as the Amicus® separator (shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,370,802), the Autopheresis C® separator (shown in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,135,667 and 5,194,145), the

Haemonetics ~~V-50~~ V-50™ separator, the Gambro Spectra® and Trima® separators and others as mentioned earlier. Each of the U.S. patents mentioned in this paragraph are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please amend paragraph [00026] as follows:

[00026] After the human subject or donor is disconnected from the fluid circuit, such as by withdrawing the needle 8, the tubing 6 may be sealed and severed from the remainder of the fluid circuit, if so desired. The fluid circuit may then, if not already installed on the reusable controller or control module, be installed thereon in order to process the blood collected in the initial collection chamber using such process as the controller may be programmed to ~~carryout~~ carry out. For example, the controller may be programmed to collect human red cells and plasma containing platelets. Alternatively, the controller may be programmed to collect concentrated platelets and plasma. The blood in the initial collection chamber may be processed sequentially or simultaneously.

Please amend paragraph [00027] as follows:

[00027] In any event, the whole blood may be processed through the controller in such ~~as~~ a manner as is most convenient and efficient for the collecting agency without concern for further inconvenience to or time required of the donor or other blood source. It is also unnecessary for each donor or other blood source to have associated with them a dedicated controller or control module. For example, blood from a number of sources may be pooled together into a single flow path for subsequent processing. Accordingly, the controller may be located at the collection site where whole blood is

being collected for convenient processing promptly after collection or, alternatively, the controller or control module may be at an entirely ~~differently~~ different location than where the blood is initially collected from the human subject or other blood source. As a result, one controller or control module may be used for processing blood collected from many different human subjects, thus, significantly reducing the capital cost required by blood collection centers or agencies, in comparison to those situations where it is necessary to have a reusable controller or control module associated with each donor throughout all or a significant portion of the time of collection and/or processing.

Please amend paragraph [00028] as follows:

[0028] As a further possible efficiency in connection with the present invention, it may be possible to connect more than one initial collection chambers to a given fluid circuit assembly, so that blood collected from various donors may be processed through the same disposable fluid circuit assembly. This may be achieved by providing additional connection sites such as a Y connector 28 on the fluid path 6, for attachment of an initial collection chamber used to collect blood from another donor. Multiple ~~collection~~ connection sites 28 may be provided on the fluid path 6 so that a plurality of initial collection chambers could be connected for processing whole blood collected from several different donors. Instead of a connection site, one or more sealed branch tubing lengths may be provided for connection to collection chambers by a sterile connection device, allowing blood in additional collection chambers to be processed serially or in parallel through the same fluid circuit. Also, it may be possible to pool several initial collection chambers into a single container for processing through the fluid circuit

assembly.